Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-34 (Cancelled)

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): An implant for ~~the~~ treatment of bone fractures, the implant comprising a main plate adapted to be fixed to a bone and a plate-shaped outrigger element adapted to be fixed to the bone, the main plate having a first side and a second side, wherein, in an assembled state of the implant, the plate-shaped outrigger element is arranged offset from the main plate and the second side of the main plate is positioned further from the plate-shaped outrigger element than the first side of the main plate, the implant further comprising a U-shape flexible connection element having a pair of U limbs extending outwardly from a U base, each of the pair of U limbs having a terminal end,

wherein the U-shape flexible connection element connects the main plate and the plate-shaped outrigger element to treat a bone fracture, the U-shape flexible connection element extending less than entirely around ~~the~~ a periphery of the bone in the assembled state of the implant; and

wherein the main plate has at least one pair of first passages through which the U limbs of the U-shape flexible connection element are guidable, wherein, in the assembled state of the implant, the U base of the U-shape flexible connection element is positioned outside of an aperture of the plate-shaped outrigger element, and the said terminal end of one of the pair of U limbs passing through one of the pair of first passages in the main plate from the first side of the main plate to the second side of the main plate and said terminal end of ~~the other~~ another one of the pair of U limbs passing through ~~the other~~ another one of the pair of first passages in the main plate from the first side of the main plate to the second side of the main plate, wherein, in the assembled state of the implant, the terminal ends of both of the pair of U limbs are positioned adjacent to the second side of the main plate.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): The implant in accordance with claim 35, wherein the U-shape flexible connection element has an elongate U-shape.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): The implant in accordance with claim 35, wherein the U-shape flexible connection element is one of a wire and a thread.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): The implant in accordance with claim 35, wherein the U-shape flexible connection element is coupled to at least one of the main plate and the plate-shaped outrigger element by at least one of tying, hooking, and latching.

Claim 39 (Cancelled)

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): The implant in accordance with claim 35, wherein the plate-shaped outrigger element has a plurality of passages for the reception of fastening elements.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The implant of claim 40, wherein the passages are adapted to receive bone screws.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): The implant in accordance with claim 35, wherein the plate-shaped outrigger element is provided with at least five passages to receive fastening elements.

Claim 43 (Cancelled)

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): The implant of claim 35, wherein the U limbs of the U-shape flexible connection element are received through the at least one pair of second passages in the plate-shaped outrigger element and are led through the at least one pair of first passages in the main plate, the U limbs of the U-shape flexible connection element being connected to each other at free ends remote from the plate-shaped outrigger element.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The implant of claim 44, wherein the free ends are at least one of knotted and twisted together.

Claim 46 (Currently Amended): The implant in accordance with claim 35, wherein the plate-shaped outrigger element is flexible.

Claim 47 (Currently Amended): The implant in accordance with claim 35, wherein the plate-shaped outrigger element is formed as a perforated plate.

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): The implant in accordance with claim 35, wherein the plate-shaped outrigger element is made in at least one of a mesh-like and a grid-like shape.

Claim 49 (Currently Amended): The implant in accordance with claim 35, wherein the plate-shaped outrigger element includes a plurality of ring sections connected to one another directly or by webs and each bounding a passage.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): The implant in accordance with claim 35, wherein the plate-shaped outrigger element and the U-shape flexible connection element are unreleasably connected to one another.

Claim 51 (Cancelled)

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): The implant in accordance with claim 35, wherein the spatial offset between the main plate and the plate-shaped outrigger element corresponds to a length of the U limbs of the U-shape flexible connection element.

Claim 53 (Currently Amended): The implant in accordance with claim 35, wherein the U-shape flexible connection element can be fixed at different positions relative to at least one of the main plate and the plate-shaped outrigger element.

Claim 54 (Currently Amended): An implant for ~~the~~ treatment of bone fractures, the implant comprising a main plate adapted to be fixed to a bone and a plate-shaped outrigger element adapted to be fixed to the bone, the main plate having a first side and a second side, wherein, in an assembled state of the implant, the plate-shaped outrigger element is arranged offset from the main plate and the second side of the main plate is positioned further from the plate-shaped outrigger element than the first side of the main plate, the implant further comprising a U-shape flexible connection element having a pair of U limbs extending outwardly from a U base, each of the pair of U limbs having a terminal end,

wherein the U-shape flexible connection element connects the main plate and the plate-shaped outrigger element to treat a bone fracture, the U-shape flexible connection element extending less than entirely around ~~the~~ a periphery of the bone in the assembled state of the implant;

wherein the main plate has at least one pair of first passages through which the U limbs of the U-shape flexible connection element are guidable, wherein, in the assembled state of the implant, the U base of the U-shape flexible connection element is positioned outside of an aperture of the plate-shaped outrigger element, and the terminal end of one of the pair of U limbs passing through one of the pair of first passages in the main plate from the first side of the main plate to the second side of the main plate and the terminal end of ~~the other~~ another one of the pair of U limbs passing through ~~the other~~ another one of the pair of first passages in the main plate from the first side of the main plate to the second side of the main plate, wherein, in the assembled state of the implant, the terminal ends of both of the pair of U limbs are positioned adjacent to the second side of the main plate; and

wherein the plate-shaped outrigger element has a base area substantially smaller than that of the main plate.

Claim 55 (Cancelled)

Claim 56 (Currently Amended): The implant in accordance with claim 35, wherein at least one of the main plate and the plate-shaped outrigger element have at least one of a hook-like and claw-like ~~continuation~~ configuration.

Claim 57 (Currently Amended): The implant in accordance with claim 35, wherein the plate-shaped outrigger element ~~is made in plate shape and~~ has smaller thickness than the main plate.

Claim 58 (Currently Amended): The implant in accordance with claim 57, wherein the thickness of the plate-shaped outrigger element is less than half the thickness of the main plate.

Claim 59 (Currently Amended): The implant in accordance with claim 35, wherein the plate-shaped outrigger element is deformable without tools during an operation.

Claim 60 (Currently Amended): An implant for ~~the~~ treatment of bone fractures, the implant comprising a main plate adapted to be fixed to a bone and a plate-shaped outrigger element adapted to be fixed to the bone, the main plate having a first side and a second side, wherein, in an assembled state of the implant, the plate-shaped outrigger element is arranged offset from the main plate and the second side of the main plate is positioned further from the plate-shaped outrigger element than the first side of the main plate, the implant further comprising a U-shape flexible connection element having a pair of U limbs extending outwardly from a U base, each of the pair of U limbs having a terminal end,

wherein the U-shape flexible connection element connects the main plate and the plate-shaped outrigger element to treat a bone fracture, the U-shape flexible connection element extending less than entirely around ~~the~~ a periphery of the bone in the assembled state of the implant;

wherein the main plate has at least one pair of first passages through which the U limbs of the U-shape flexible connection element are guidable, wherein, in the assembled state of the implant, the U base of the U-shape flexible connection element is positioned outside of an aperture of the plate-shaped outrigger element, and the terminal end of one of the pair of U limbs passing through one of the pair of first passages in the main plate from the first side of the main plate to the second side of

the main plate and the terminal end of ~~the other~~ another one of the pair of U limbs passing through the other one of the pair of first passages in the main plate from the first side of the main plate to the second side of the main plate, wherein, in the assembled state of the implant, the terminal ends of both of the pair of U limbs are positioned adjacent to the second side of the main plate; and

wherein the plate-shaped outrigger element has a base area substantially smaller than that of the main plate.

Claim 61 (Currently Amended): The implant in accordance with claim 35, wherein the plate-shaped outrigger element includes a bioabsorbable material.

Claim 62 (Previously Presented): The implant in accordance with claim 61, wherein the bioabsorbable material is plastically deformable at temperatures between 50 and 90°C.

Claim 63-66 (Cancelled)

Claim 67 (Previously Presented): The implant in accordance with claim 61, wherein the bioabsorbable material comprises a polymer.

Claim 68 (Currently Amended): The implant in accordance with claim 35, wherein the plate-shaped outrigger element and the U-shape flexible connection element are monolithic.

Claim 69-71 (Cancelled)